

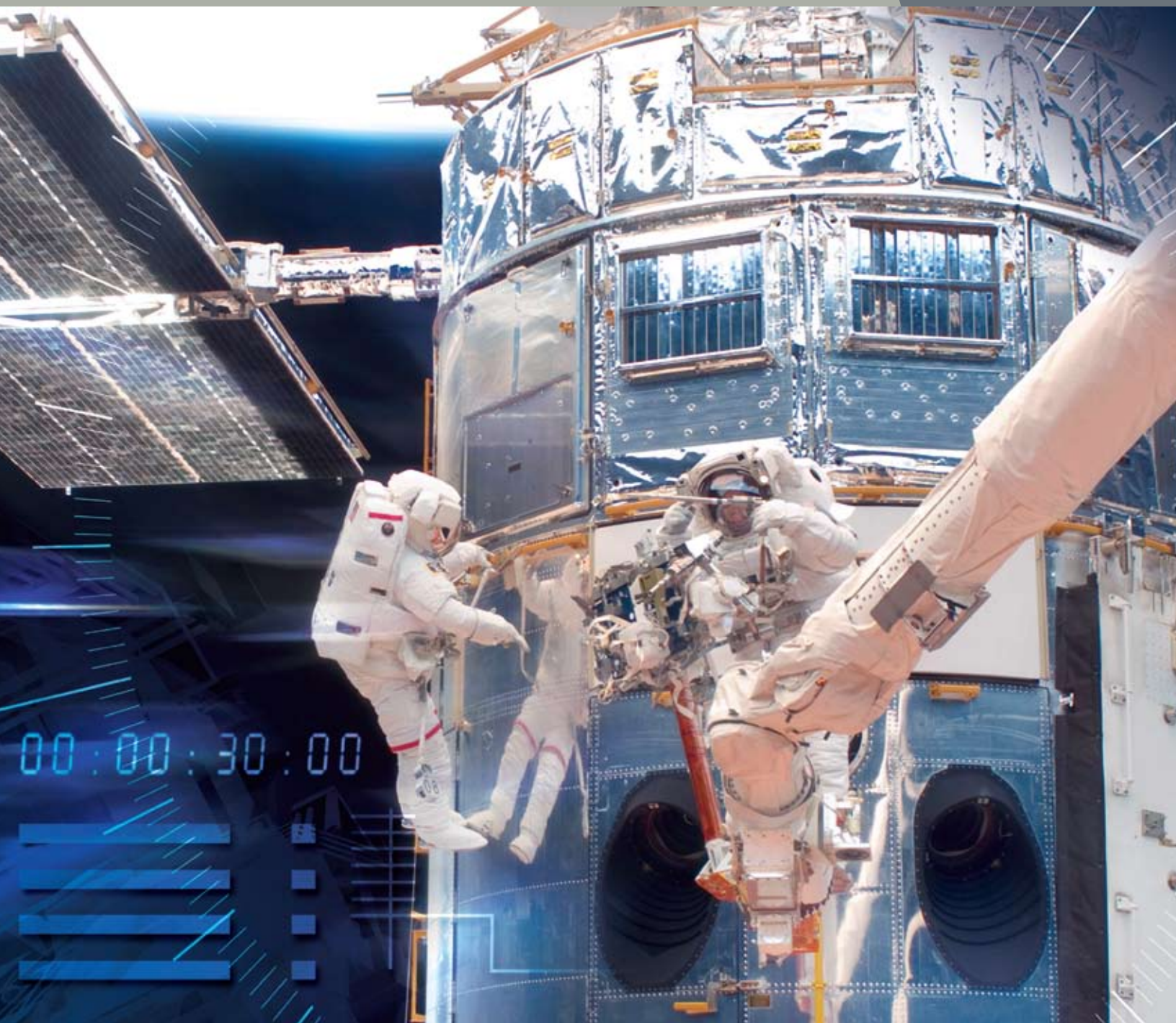
National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Roundup

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center

June 2009



Epic Adventures in Space

JSC Director



NASA PHOTO S125-E-007221

On the cover:

What appears to be a number of astronauts because of the shiny, mirror-like surface of the temporarily-captured Hubble Space Telescope, is actually only two—astronauts John Grunsfeld (left) and Andrew Feustel. The mission specialists are performing the first of five STS-125 spacewalks.



NASA PHOTO/JACK PFALLER

Photo of the month:

Let's roll.

In the early morning hours on March 31, space shuttle Atlantis crawls out to Launch Pad 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida after leaving the Vehicle Assembly Building.

In our increasingly fast-paced world, impatient and distracted drivers are more prevalent than ever. While courteous and safe driving habits are important everywhere, I ask that everyone make an extra effort to slow down and exhibit courteous behavior inside the gates of Johnson Space Center.

Using a cell phone or texting while driving is not permitted at JSC. I've also seen pedestrians step in front of cars while completely engrossed in a cell phone conversation. Having the right-of-way doesn't change the laws of physics. When a pedestrian challenges a vehicle, the vehicle is always going to win. No amount of signs or painted lines can change that. It is up to all of us to act safely.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration tells us that pedestrian accidents are down overall. That is good news, but there are still thousands of fatal accidents each year. Evenings and weekends are especially dangerous, with children and the elderly most affected. The most important thing for both drivers and pedestrians to remember is to stay alert to stay alive.

Here are some tips and reminders to drivers:

- Pedestrians have the right-of-way. Even if you think the pedestrian is doing something irresponsible or annoying, slow down and/or stop for a person on foot.
- Be aware of elderly people, who are most often hit and killed. They might be scared and unaware, so be on the lookout.
- Before turning onto a new road or passing through a crosswalk, look for pedestrians. Remember, JSC policy is that a pedestrian in a crosswalk must clear the adjacent lane before you can accelerate behind them.
- Turning and yielding are often the times during which drivers hit pedestrians.
- Keep your eyes and attention on the road. Many pedestrians are hit by drivers changing the radio, talking on the phone, texting or drivers who are otherwise distracted.
- Keep track of time. Most child fatalities and injuries happen after school, between 3 and 7 p.m.

Some tips and reminders to pedestrians:

- The car is bigger than you are. Use caution before stepping out into the road.
- Use a crosswalk if it is available.
- Walk on the sidewalk. If there isn't one, walk on the side of the road facing traffic.
- Be extra careful at night and during rainstorms. A pedestrian is difficult to see, so wear reflective clothing.

I hope all of us working at JSC consider ourselves part of the NASA family. Please treat both drivers and pedestrians with the same respect and courtesy you show your family members. We have to take care of each other.



Mike

NASA Earth Observatory site **celebrates** a decade

By Neesha Hosein

The NASA Earth Observatory (EO) Web site celebrated its 10th anniversary on April 29.

EO was launched as a way to bridge the gap between NASA's online technical Earth and climate science research data and public-friendly information.

In the last decade, the Web site has published thousands of images and informative articles. The collection of images highlights data from both unmanned satellites and manned missions.

"It is a Web site run out of Goddard Space Flight Center, primarily for educational outreach and public awareness of NASA Earth imagery and data," said Senior Geoscientist William Stefanov of the Image Science and Analysis Laboratory at Johnson Space Center.

The Web site provides the public with access to a large collection of breathtaking NASA imagery. The images come with descriptive content written for a non-technical audience.

"The Crew Earth Observations team, part of the JSC Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science Directorate, contributes an astronaut photograph and associated article to the Earth Observatory site each week," Stefanov said.

Viewers get to pick their favorite images

As part of the site's 10-year anniversary commemoration, NASA held a contest for viewers to vote on their 10 favorite images. Several astronaut photographs were in the running.

"The Earth Observatory favorite image voting was an interesting exercise for us," said Kevin Ward, NASA's Earth Observatory team leader and one of its co-founders. "We wanted an activity on the site that would more directly engage our readers, highlight the great imagery we have published over the years and help us celebrate our 10th anniversary."

Ward also said the EO team has worked with partners across the agency to highlight all the excellent images and stories, and they look forward to expanding those partnerships in the future.

One successful partnership, Ward said, is with the JSC Astronaut Photography Group.

"We look forward to continuing to produce quality imagery and stories, but also look toward improving our exposure (with) Facebook, Twitter, Flickr—and developing new ways to communicate the role of NASA in Earth Science through blogs, podcasts and (the) 'Ask-a-Scientist' (feature)," Ward said.

Top Winners

First place: A View of Earth From Saturn

Second place: Ocean, Sand Bahamas

Third place: Atafu Atoll, Tokelau, Southern Pacific Ocean

To see the viewers' top 10 choices and for more information, visit:
<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/10thAnniversary/top10.php>



NASA/PHOTO

First-place winner: "A View of Earth From Saturn," made from 165 images, taken by the wide-angle camera on the Cassini spacecraft over nearly three hours on Sept. 15, 2006.



NASA/PHOTO

Second-place winner: "Ocean, Sand Bahamas," a satellite image of the sands and seaweed in the Bahamas. The image was taken by the Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus instrument aboard the Landsat 7 satellite.



NASA/PHOTO

Third-place winner: "Atafu Atoll, Tokelau, Southern Pacific Ocean," an astronaut photograph taken by the Expedition 18 crew on Jan. 6 with a Nikon D2Xs digital camera fitted with an 800-mm lens. This image was provided by the International Space Station Crew Earth Observations experiment and the Image Science and Analysis Laboratory at JSC.

EVA works toward present and future success

By Neesha Hosein

The Extravehicular Activity (EVA) Office is playing an important role in NASA's transition to the next phase of space exploration. As the Space Shuttle Program winds down, new and improved spacesuits and hardware are already on the horizon.

The EVA Office was recently reorganized into two divisions: the EVA Operations Office and the EVA Development Office.

Operations Office

The EVA Operations Office is responsible for EVA training, integration, operations and hardware for the Space Shuttle and International Space Station Programs. The team is also preparing for shuttle retirement.

To support the station (after) shuttle retirement, it is imperative to make sure that all EVA hardware is certified to launch on vehicles such as the Russian Soyuz, the unmanned Russian Progress (an automated version of Soyuz) and the future Orion crew exploration vehicle.

"We are recertifying all of our hardware, such as the current suit, the Extravehicular Mobility Unit (EMU)," said Michael Mankin, EVA Operations Office manager.

The recertification process of hardware involves the testing and analysis needed to verify that the suits and tools meet the requirements and are safe to fly.

"The launch loads are different, and also the weight of the hardware stowed in those vehicles. It's a whole different set of calculations," Mankin said. "And we're having to tweak a little bit of hardware to make sure it can handle the recertify and redesign. It's all a logistics thing."

EVA hardware refers to "all the tools that the astronauts use to conduct an EVA. So it's all the bags, wrenches, screwdrivers, you name

it, any kind of tool that the crew member takes out with him to perform a spacewalk," Mankin explained.

Development Office

The EVA Development Office is focused on the Constellation Program. The new suit system, currently under development, will integrate the capabilities of today's white EMU and orange Advanced Crew Escape Suit (ACES). The ACES is worn by the crew during launch and landing, and the EMU is worn during spacewalks.

"The requirements for the lunar suit are very different than the requirements for the EMU," said Lara Kearney, EVA Development Office manager. "For instance, where the EMU is close to 300 pounds and is certified for 25 (spacewalks), the lunar suit will be nearly half that mass and will be certified for more like 100 (spacewalks). The lunar suit is also being designed to be used in a dusty, partial-gravity environment, where today's EMU functions in a microgravity, vacuum environment."

Kearney said that the new suit will take advantage of the technological advancements that have been made in materials and communication systems, making it lighter weight and more user-friendly.

EVA and the Future

To date, there have been over 1,900 hours of spacewalks using the current EMU suit. That number will significantly increase during the remaining shuttle missions. Through the continued support of the International Space Station Program and upcoming support of the Constellation Program, EVA will play an important role in the future of human spaceflight.



NASA/PHOTO STS103-302-002

The Space Shuttle Discovery's cargo bay and crew module, as well as the Earth's horizon, are reflected in the helmet visor of one of the spacewalking astronauts on STS-103.



The orange Advanced Crew Escape Suit (ACES) and the white Extravehicular Mobility Unit (EMU).

NASA/PHOTO

Johnson Space Center thanks the **Sheltons** for 21 years of generosity

By Sean **Elizabeth Wilson**

Since the 1988 launch of STS-26, a colorful bouquet of roses has appeared amid the stark blue consoles and telemetry-filled screens in the shuttle Mission Control Center (MCC). Space enthusiasts Mark, Terry and their daughter MacKenzie Shelton of Bedford, Texas, have been sending the roses—one for each space shuttle crew member and a white rose for those lost in flight—for every shuttle mission these past 21 years.

The STS-119 mission marked the 100th delivery of roses to the MCC, but it was a little different this time around. On March 26, the Sheltons personally delivered the bouquet to mission control to a crowd of appreciative flight controllers.

Over the space to ground loop, *Discovery* commander Lee Archambault expressed his gratitude to the family.



MacKenzie Shelton places roses on a shuttle Mission Control Center console during the STS-119 mission, while Mark Shelton (left) and Terry Shelton (right) look on.

"Our space program is built around the solid support of the United States public," Archambault said. "No family embodies that support more than you, the Shelton family."

Throughout the morning, the Sheltons were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of Johnson Space Center's facilities. The VIP access was a real treat for Mark Shelton.

"I don't think we could have bought what we experienced here today," Mark Shelton said.

Following the rose delivery, the Sheltons were recognized with an appreciation ceremony in the Teague Auditorium. JSC Associate Director (Technical) Milt Heflin, who was a shuttle flight director at the time of the first rose delivery 21 years ago, kicked off the event.

"Today is not about rocket science. This is about something that enables rocket science: the human spirit," Heflin said. "This family knows what human spirit is all about."

The Sheltons were recognized by several JSC organizations that



The Shelton family receives a tour of the Crew Compartment Trainer in Building 9 during their visit to JSC on March 26.

wanted to show their gratitude for the family's dedication to the space program.

Daniel W. Hartman, Operations Integration manager for the International Space Station Program, presented the family with a model of the station.

"They are an inspiration to the entire team," Hartman said.

Mark Shelton closed the ceremony with a humble tribute to everyone at JSC.

"We really do know that what you do is important," Mark Shelton said. "We are envious that you get to do something so important every day. This means a lot to us, but not as much as y'all mean to us."



Mark Shelton speaks with STS-119 Discovery crew following the rose presentation ceremony.

Flying into the sunset *The Space Shuttle Program*

THE COUNTDOWNS CONTINUE—and not just at the launch pad. The timer is winding down for the famed Space Shuttle Program. Eight flights and about 18 months remain until the final wheel stop.

As the International Space Station continues to be a vibrant part of exploration, we will soon be absorbed in the future of human spaceflight. But for now, we savor these last months with the spacecraft that rocketed us into a new era.

Yet, it can't all be nostalgia and memories. Thousands of people are connected to the program, their lives and careers shaped by the vehicle facing retirement. And not all of those people wish to retire with it.

An Amazing Ride

"Every time the shuttle launches, it's a historic event," said Rebekah Reed, manager, Space Shuttle Management Integration and Planning Office.

Since the advent of the program in the early '80s, the shuttle has been the harbinger of amazing milestones in human spaceflight, including the assembly of the International Space Station. And even with our bright future in the Constellation Program, shuttle brings something different to the table.

"Shuttle is special," Space Shuttle Program Manager John Shannon said. "We have an exceptional team. And every launch is a very visible milestone that the team can celebrate."

The end of such a program will indeed be bittersweet.

Uncertain Times

At the end of 2010, Johnson Space Center's makeup will be different. But just how different is to be determined.

"On the civil service side, we don't expect any layoffs," said JSC Director Mike Coats in a recent all-hands meeting on the NASA budget. "In essence, we are capped at 17,900 civil servants at NASA. So with the budget adjustments and review this summer, we'll have an idea where to put our civil servants in the workforce."

But on the flip side, a large portion of the contractor workforce will face increasing uncertainty as



NASA/PHOTO STS119-S-074

Space Shuttle Discovery touches down at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, concluding the 13-day, 5.3-million mile journey of the STS-119 mission to the International Space Station. About 18 months remain until the final wheel stop for the Space Shuttle Program.

Stay Informed on Transition

- **Rendezvous Web site:**
<http://rendezvous.jsc.nasa.gov/>
- **JSC Transition Web site:**
<http://transition.jsc.nasa.gov/>
- **Shuttle Transition Web site:**
<https://sspweb.jsc.nasa.gov/tr/index.cfm>
- **Space Shuttle Program News:**
<http://rendezvous.jsc.nasa.gov/SSPNews/SSPnews.pdf>

the deadline looms for shuttle.

"Some of our shuttle contracts will obviously come to an end," Coats said.

More detail than that would be premature, because there are too many facets to consider.

"The challenge on the contractor side is that we don't have the clarity," said Sue Leibert, lead, Shuttle Human Capital. "Too much is dependent on who wins contracts, where they choose to put the work (and) how they choose to set up that work. Unfortunately, we don't control that; therefore, it's harder for us to predict."

Undoubtedly, there will be fewer NASA contractor jobs in the Houston area, especially in the 2011 and 2022 timeline. However, "the local community has been and will continue to partner on things we can do to mitigate that," Leibert said.

Shuttle civil servants will have a job at NASA, but they will be moved to other programs.

"We are aggressively working transition plans for the civil servant

Saiz, director of the Human Resources Office; and those skills are going to be useful no matter what happens. We don't really understand the contours of what the agency's core missions will be, but we will have a mission that is important to the nation."

Family Matters

"In addition to the uncertainty, it's painful, literally, to be losing what you've been doing. It's okay to have a grieving process," Krzmarzick said. "And, some of these folks feel like they're losing their family. They have been working side by side for 15 to 20 years, and they're going to be deployed to do something else."

And shuttle workers won't only be losing the friends and families they have grown up with—they are also losing the shuttle.

"You think these engineers are not touchy-feely, but when it comes to the hardware that they've spent 20 years designing, developing, flying, operating, fixing—it's their child," said Dorothy Rasco, manager, Space Shuttle Business Office.

"We're not just a team, we're a family," Reed said.

"This isn't just shutting down a program—we're disrupting a family in a very fundamental way."

However, "the leadership recognizes that this transition is very personal for so many who have invested themselves in the success of the Space Shuttle Program," Saiz said. "We will be very purposeful and careful in how we deal with it."

Succeeding with Mission Success

But even though the end of shuttle is approaching, JSC does not need to be mired down in the melancholy.

"It is, from a human spaceflight perspective, a very exciting time, because we're able to see the fruition of the plans that have been in place for so long," Reed said. "The shuttle team is completing International Space Station assembly; station can now house six crew (members) and be a platform for meaningful research."

These plans will culminate in a very aggressive flight schedule for the remainder of the program.

"We're right on track to finish up," Shannon said. "As the agency said, we're going to fly one flight at a time—we're going to do it as we always have."

It is important to stay focused during this period of transition. The future of human spaceflight is undeniably linked with what we achieve in the present.

And, as Coats noted, "Nothing succeeds like mission success." While we are still dedicated and loyal to shuttle, we must soon redirect our energies into making the future just as awe-inspiring.

"It is easy to forget that we are a small part of a very great thing," Reed said. "A lot of us are closet idealists. We're here because we believe in what NASA does and what it represents for the nation



NASA/PHOTO S119E010289

Backdropped by a blue and white Earth, the International Space Station is seen from Space Shuttle Discovery as the two spacecraft begin their relative separation. The assembly required to make station a reality could not have happened without shuttle.

workforce," said Sylvia Krzmarzick, center lead for Human Capital Transition. "While we encourage all employees to set career goals for the future, we also need to ensure that everyone is more focused on the next mission. And (that) requires a bit of a leap of faith and some trust in (our) leadership."

But there is a silver lining, and that optimism comes to us in the form of each person here at JSC.

"JSC has a unique workforce with world-class skills," said Natalie

Offense is the best defense

Johnson Space Center prepares for hurricane season

By Jenny Knotts

Are you ready for hurricane season? Hopefully, after Johnson Space Center's hurricane exercise in April, you are.

"A diverse team, cross-cutting all aspects of JSC and the neighboring contractors, worked together since January to plan this drill," said Matt Soltis, lead for the JSC Office of Emergency Management.

The weeklong drill was designed to prepare JSC employees for a severe weather event, such as a hurricane, using JSC's Hurricane Management Plan. It also included lessons learned from Hurricane Ike.

The first few days of the drill consisted of monitoring the simulated storm as it made its way over Cuba and into the Gulf of Mexico. The

Personal Preparedness

Hurricane Ike in 2008 was a harsh reminder that having a family emergency plan and a survival supply kit are essential for anyone living on the Texas Gulf Coast. Here are some things you can do at home to be prepared for the next big hurricane:

- Have a disaster supply kit already put together
- Know where you're evacuating to and make sure friends and family are aware
- Have a route already mapped, including alternate routes in case of heavy traffic
- Be sure to have extra cash with you, including small bills
- Keep important phone numbers on hand, including family, insurance companies and any numbers needed after the storm

fourth day of the drill actually spanned several weeks of simulated drill time.

"By condensing the majority of the drill into one day, I wanted to create a sense of urgency and stress," said Joel Walker, director of the Center Operations Directorate. "The pace of the day was very brisk and really helped us exercise our time critical decision-making and problem-solving skills."

On the morning of day four, the decision was made to simulate closing the center. From then on, each hour of real time spanned one or two days of simulated time.

At the beginning of each hour, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) manager conducted a 15-minute situation briefing with senior staff and informed organizations of the latest information and any

A good plan of action is the best defense against natural disasters.



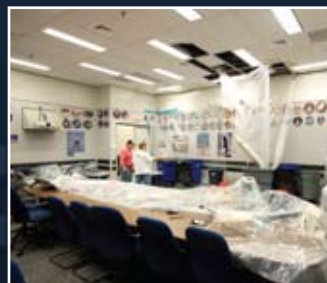
potential obstacles they might face.

After the briefing, the organizations had 30 minutes to "work" the situation. Each organization queried their staff to determine if any of the obstacles affected them and, if so, what the impacts were and what, if anything, could be done about it.

After the 30-minute exercise, the EOC manager met with senior staff again to go over the situation update. The sequence would then start over with another situation briefing from the EOC manager.

This cycle was repeated until around 4 p.m., when the decision was made to simulate reopening the center. This marked the end of the exercise.

Last year, Texas and JSC experienced the most devastating hurricane to impact the Gulf Coast in several decades; but thanks to the recent hurricane drill, JSC is better prepared for the 2009 season.



This picture of Hurricane Ike on Sept. 10, 2008, was downlinked by the crew of the International Space Station.

Hurricane Ike in 2008 proved to be a real test in emergency preparedness.

Work Preparedness

Not only should you have a personal preparedness plan, but there are steps you can take to be prepared at work as well.

- Update SyREN and Employee Express information
- Prepare your workstation
- Have your supervisor's contact information and see that he or she has a reliable way to reach you
- Check in with your supervisor after evacuation
- Monitor <http://www.jscsos.com> for the latest news on the center's status

NASA's Driven To Explore exhibit aspires to **inspire**

By **Neesha** Hosein

NASA's Driven to Explore (DTE) exhibit provides an interactive learning experience for the public. This mobile multimedia experience showcases the Space Shuttle Program, the progress of the International Space Station and benefits of space exploration leading into NASA's next major program—Constellation. The walking tour includes breathtaking imagery and state-of-the-art models of the Constellation Program's next-generation launch vehicles and human spacecraft destined for use to explore the moon and beyond.

The DTE Team Heads Out

In the spring of 2009, DTE and its team of communicators and educators set out, traveling thousands of miles across the United States. Designed to inform and inspire, the self-contained interactive exhibit gives visitors the opportunity to touch a 3-billion-year-old moon rock, one of the exhibit's main attractions, brought back by Apollo 17 in 1972 during the last manned mission to the moon.

Visitors also get to learn more about the development of America's



Driven to Explore visited Oklahoma State University, where students of all ages learned about NASA's past, present and future.

Kansas Highlights

On the Kansas tour, April 4 to 18, the exhibit traveled more than 1,014 miles across the state and visited five cities: Hutchinson, Wichita, Lawrence, Abilene and Salina. Approximately 6,000 visitors had contact with NASA communicators and an introduction to NASA's future. Three educational programs were featured at two venues via NASA's Digital Learning Network, engaging nearly 200 students and teachers.

Also on the Kansas tour, Astronaut Steve Bowen signed autographs for the exhibit's visitors while it was at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center. During the visit to Lawrence, the exhibit was the highlight of the University of Kansas' Open House for area high school seniors. The Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum hosted a reception and preview of the exhibit.

Oklahoma Highlights

Most recently, DTE traveled through central Oklahoma from May 4 to 12. The exhibit opened on May 4 and 5 at the Stafford Air and Space Museum in Weatherford. On May 7 and 8, the trailer was on display at the Oklahoma Science Museum in Oklahoma City. Days later, DTE went to the 99s Museum of Women Pilots in Oklahoma City and wrapped up on May 12 at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. Approximately 4,500 visitors had an up-close, personal look at NASA's exploration programs.

Follow the trailer by visiting:

http://www.nasa.gov/exploration/outreach/exhibit_Driven_to_Explore_Trailer.html

You can also follow its movements at: <http://www.twitter.com/NASA>
To view more photos, see JSC Features at: <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/jscfeatures/>



Driven to Explore made a stop at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Kansas, where visitors had the chance to touch a moon rock.

next-generation launch vehicles, including what it will take to sustain a working and living outpost on the moon. From schools and universities to science centers and museums, DTE takes NASA to a diverse audience, delivering a personal experience by nurturing public interest in human exploration and encouraging students to pursue studies in science, technology, engineering and math.

Spotlight Daniel Gazda, Ph.D.

Environmental Scientist

Gazda works for the Wyle Integrated Science and Engineering Group in the Water and Food Analytical Laboratory. His primary responsibility is supporting the International Space Station Program on issues related to water quality and environmental monitoring, but he also works on the development and certification of flight hardware. Gazda has been at Johnson Space Center for about five years.



NASA/STAFFORD JSC2009E117986

Q: Coolest part of your job?

A: Knowing that hardware I've helped develop and fabricate is actually being used in space.

Q: Favorite hobbies or interesting things you do away from the office?

A: Once I get off work, I really like being outside. I've been involved with the Bay Area Rugby Club since I moved to Houston in 2004, and my wife and I volunteer at a local animal shelter on the weekends. I also enjoy fishing.

Q: What would you be doing if you weren't in your current job at JSC?

A: If I weren't in my current job, I'd probably be teaching and coaching. I knew that I didn't want to have to wear a tie to work.

Q: What would people be surprised to know about you?

A: I have a real soft spot for animals, especially dogs. A couple years ago I was reading the book "Marley and Me" and ended up finishing the book while I was on an airplane. I was crying pretty hard by the time the plane landed.

Q: Favorite sport?

A: I like most sports, but my favorites would be football, rugby, soccer and hockey.

Q: Last good book or article you read?

A: I really don't read much outside of work, but one of my all-time favorite articles is a fascinating piece of scientific research that was published in the journal "Polar Biology" in 2003. A team of researchers calculated the gastrointestinal pressures generated by

brooding penguins. It's a legitimate scientific paper, but the figures and conclusions are absolutely hysterical.

Q: What is a quality you admire most in people?

A: I admire people who understand teamwork and are willing to put aside personal differences to achieve a common goal.

Q: What do you look forward to most at NASA?

A: Right now, I'm really looking forward to deployment of the Colorimetric Water Quality Monitoring Kit (CWQMK) on station. Our project team just finished fabricating the kit, and it's scheduled to launch on STS-128/17A. Between graduate school and my time at JSC, I've been working on the CWQMK for close to 10 years. It's really exciting to see something that I've invested so much time in used in space.



NASA/PHOTO

WANTED!

Do you know a JSC colleague or team that does something extraordinary on or off the job? Whether it's a unique skill, interesting work, special professional accomplishment, remarkable second career, hobby or volunteerism, your nominee(s) may deserve the spotlight!

The Roundup shines the light on one special person or team each month, chosen from a cross section of the JSC workforce. To suggest "Spotlight" candidates, send your nomination to the JSC Roundup Office mailbox at jsc-roundup@mail.nasa.gov. Please include contact information and a brief description of why your nominee(s) should be considered.

Center Scoop

MIKE MASSIMINO BECOMES THE FIRST TO 'TWEET' FROM SPACE

As astronaut Mike Massimino zoomed to rendezvous with the Hubble Space Telescope, he managed to reach out to thousands of people who are following his Twitter feed at http://twitter.com/astro_mike. He sent an e-mail to Johnson Space Center, which then posted this message to his Twitter:

"From orbit: Launch was awesome!! I am feeling great, working hard, & enjoying the magnificent views, the adventure of a lifetime has begun!"

Aboard the shuttle, astronauts have one or two opportunities each day to send an e-mail, but they do not have access to the Internet.

Massimino began "tweeting" in early April about his training for the STS-125 shuttle mission to update the Hubble Space Telescope. More than 350,000 people are following his Twitter feed.

The commander for the next shuttle flight, Mark Polansky, is also "tweeting." He's posting updates at http://twitter.com/astro_127 as he and his crew finish preparing for their STS-127 mission to the International Space Station.

NASA also provides tweets on the shuttle missions and its other endeavors at: <http://www.twitter.com/nasa>



NASA/BOLDT JSC2001-02670

STS-125 Mission Specialist Mike Massimino.

NEW BEGINNINGS

The Office of Communications and Public Affairs is now open and thriving with business in the newly renovated and environmentally certified Building 2 North. On April 14, Center Director Mike Coats and Director of the Center Operations Directorate Joel Walker were on hand for the special ribbon-cutting ceremony. The new building is not only eco-friendly, it also features a state-of-the-art newsroom and a stunning, illuminated star field in the ceiling of the lobby.



NASA/PHOTO JSC2008e082953

The gigantic set of scissors being wielded by management and building developers heralds the beginning of a new era in Building 2 North.

BE PART OF THE ACTION: APOLLO 40TH ANNIVERSARY

June 20: NASA Night with the Houston Dynamo

July 4: Freedom Over Texas 4th of July Celebration

July 20: Discovery Green Apollo 11 Celebration
NASA Night with the Astros

July 20 to 24: Employee events on site at JSC

July 24: Splashdown Celebration at Space Center Houston

For more information, check out:

<http://www.nasa.gov/centers/johnson/events/apollo40.html>



NASA/PHOTO S69-21698

The Apollo 11 crew members await pick-up by a helicopter from the USS Hornet. Splashdown occurred on July 24, 1969, about 812 nautical miles southwest of Hawaii.

Roundup

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A world of fun



Johnson Space Center set up an interactive exhibit at the 2009 Houston International Festival on April 19, 25 and 26. Volunteers distributed educational handouts and assisted visitors in the spacesuit photo opportunity display. Astronaut James P. Dutton, Jr. signed autographs for space fans. This year's spotlight country was Ireland. Approximately 250,000 visitors attended the festival.